

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES- DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

FACT SHEET

APPROVAL OF TWO NEW OUT-OF-STATE CHILD PLACEMENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AGREEMENTS WITH ASPEN SOLUTIONS, INC. DBA ASPEN RANCH AND CINNAMON HILLS YOUTH CRISIS CENTER, INC., FOR FISCAL YEARS 2002-2003, 2003-2004, AND 2004-2005

ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)

REQUEST:

Request delegated authority to the Director of Mental Health to prepare, sign and execute two new Out-Of-State Child Placement Mental Health Services Agreements with Aspen Solutions, Inc., dba Aspen Ranch and Cinnamon Hills Youth Crisis Center, Inc. for Fiscal Years (FY) 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005. There is no Maximum Contract Amount for these Agreements as services are provided and reimbursed on an as needed basis. The budgeted allocation for out-of-state contract providers is \$6.2 million for FY 2002-2003.

CONTRACTOR:

Aspen Solutions, Inc., dba Aspen Ranch and Cinnamon Hills Youth Center, Inc. are both licensed as non-profit treatment centers, and the State of California Department of Education has certified the school components as Non-Public School educational providers. Both agencies will provide specialized mental health treatment to Severely Emotionally Disturbed (SED) children, adolescents and families. The out-of-state addresses are as follows:

- Aspen Solutions, Inc. is 2000 West Dry Valley, Loa, Utah 84747; and
- Cinnamon Hills Youth Crisis Center, Inc. is 770 East St. Orange Blvd., St. George, Utah 84770.

For mental health services provided to clients of the Department of Mental Health (DMH), Aspen Solutions, Inc. dba Aspen Ranch negotiated a daily rate of \$80.00 and Cinnamon Hills Youth Crisis Center, Inc. negotiated a daily rate of \$45.00.

INTENT:

Approval for the above action is requested to ensure additional mental health services to SED clients. Additionally, establishing both Aspen Solutions and Cinnamon Hills Youth Crisis Center, Inc., as new out-of-state placement resources will expand the department's referral list for the placement of SED clients, who have failed in multiple local residential treatment programs and require access to out-of-state agencies.

JUSTIFICATION:

These new out-of-state agreements with Aspen Ranch and Cinnamon Hills Youth Crisis Center, Inc. will allow the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to meet its responsibilities under Assembly Bill (AB) 3632, to provide mental health services to disabled pupils. The enactment of AB 2726 in 1996 shifted fiscal and programmatic responsibilities from local school districts to County mental health agencies.

These clients reside throughout the County of Los Angeles, and are placed in out-of-state education and mental health treatment facilities because they have either failed in multiple local residential treatment programs or have been refused admission by multiple programs in California.

CONTRACTING PROCESS:

DMH staff met with representatives of this agency to determine the appropriate rate for the mental health services components of this program. Rates are well below comparable California rates for similar services. The agencies meet California requirements for a not-for-profit organizational structure, meet Medicaid certification standards in their respective states and have educational programs certified and approved by the California Department of Education.

DMH will assign Clinical and Administrative staff to supervise and administer the Agreements, evaluate the program to ensure that quality services are being provided to clients and to ensure that the Agreement provisions and DMH policies are being followed.